

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed are an image processing apparatus and an image processing method that can decrease image quality deterioration caused by unsuitable image correction  
5 processing performed on a pixel in a halftone-dot area due to a misjudgment of an image type, and an image forming apparatus that utilizes the image processing apparatus. A characteristic of a halftone-dot area is judged by, for example, counting the number of isolated pixels detected by an isolated  
10 pixel detection filter with a predetermined size. A parameter such as a threshold for the number of inner edge pixels for use in a judgment of an edge area of a character that is present on a halftone-dot area is switched (between thresholds 503 and 504), based on the characteristic of the halftone-dot  
15 area.